

## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /011 R

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TO USDEL ASWAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 058959

EXDIS TOSEC 646

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 58958 ACTION NATO INFO ALL NATO  
CAPITALS GENEVA MOSCOW 16 MARCH.

QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 058959

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NATO

SUBJECT: PERMREPS LUNCH MARCH 18 -- NATO SUMMIT

USNATO HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

GENEVA FOR US CSCE DEL

1. DURING PERMREPS LUNCH DISCUSSION MARCH 18, YOU  
SHOULD MAINLY SEEK TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR A NATO SUMMIT TO  
TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO CSCE STAGE III, THEREBY STEERING THE  
ALLIES AWAY FROM RECENT PROPOSALS FOR A "WESTERN SUMMIT,"  
PERHAPS ENTAILING A LOOSELY STRUCTURED GATHERING OF THE  
NINE, THE US, CANADA, AND OTHER NON-COMMUNIST EUROPEAN  
COUNTRIES.

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2. THE BRITISH HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THE MAY 29-30 SPRING NAC MINISTERIAL MEETING MIGHT BE HELD AT SUMMIT LEVEL, BUT WE PREFER A NATO SUMMIT SOMEWHAT LATER THAN THE REGULAR NATO MINISTERIAL SESSION. IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT THE HELSINKI FINALE WILL TAKE PLACE IN MID OR LATE JULY, AND WE WOULD LIKE THE NATO SUMMIT AS CLOSE TO THE CSCE SUMMIT AS POSSIBLE, BUT WE HAVE NO OBJECTION AT PRESENT TO MAINTAINING FLEXIBILITY ON TIMING. THUS, THERE IS NO NEED TO TAKE ANY INITIATIVE NOW TO ENCOURAGE ALLIED DECISION ON EXACT DATE OF A NATO SUMMIT. SINCE BRITISH RAISED IN WASHINGTON IDEA OF MAY 29-30 SUMMIT, YOU SHOULD INFORM PECK OF OUR VIEWS AS OUTLINED ABOVE.

3. IN PERMREP DISCUSSION, YOU MAY WISH TO DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- WE BELIEVE IT IS TIME TO GIVE MORE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO THE QUESTION OF A NATO SUMMIT AROUND THE TIME OF A POSSIBLE CSCE SUMMIT.

-- BECAUSE THE LEVEL OF THE THIRD STAGE OF CSCE HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED, THE NATURE OF ANY ADVANCE NATO GATHERING CANNOT BE CONSIDERED FORMALLY. BUT PRUDENCE COUNSELS THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD ARRIVE AT A MEETING OF THE MINDS ON THE SUBJECT IN ORDER TO AVOID CONFUSION AND MISUNDERSTANDING LATER ON. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN THE LIGHT OF GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV'S RECENT SUGGESTION THAT STAGE III BE HELD JUNE 30.

-- WE CAN EXPECT THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES TO HAVE A COHERENT VIGOROUS PUBLIC POSTURE ON CSCE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS. A NATO SUMMIT WOULD HELP INTRODUCE INTO PUBLIC DISCOURSE THE NECESSARY ELEMENTS OF PROPORTION AND BALANCE WITH REGARD TO EAST-WEST RELATIONS, SINCE NATO HAS SERVED SINCE 1967 AS THE CLEARING-HOUSE FOR ALLIED CONSULTATIONS IN THE SEARCH FOR RELAXATION OF EAST-WEST TENSIONS.

-- A NATO GATHERING WOULD SERVE TO CONVEY TO THE PUBLIC  
-- AND TO THE SOVIET UNION -- THAT WESTERN SECURITY  
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REMAINS AN ISSUE OF PRIME CONCERN AND THAT EFFECTIVE DEFENSE IS THE PREREQUISITE FOR THE CONTINUED SUCCESSFUL PURSUIT OF DETENTE.

-- MOREOVER, IN THE CONTEXT OF OTHER ALLIED EFFORTS TOWARD DETENTE, A NATO PLATFORM WOULD MORE EASILY ALLOW CSCE TO BE SHOWN TO BE THE LIMITED STEP THAT IT IS.

-- NO OTHER WESTERN FORUM COULD EFFECTIVELY CONVEY THE KIND OF MESSAGE WE HAVE IN MIND WITHOUT EITHER DILUTING THE MESSAGE OR SEEMING -- BY THE SIZE OF A BROADER WESTERN GATHERING -- TO BE ORGANIZING AGAINST THE USSR. AN OPEN ENDED "WESTERN" SUMMIT IN ADVANCE OF THE CSCE WOULD RISK THOSE CONSEQUENCES.

-- SINCE TIMING OF THE NATO SUMMIT MUST TAKE NUMEROUS FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT, INCLUDING THE EVENTUAL TIMETABLE FOR THE CSCE STAGE III MEETING AND THE SCHEDULE OF GOVERNMENT LEADERS, WE SUGGEST THAT DATES BE DISCUSSED ON ANOTHER OCCASION.

-- FOR OUR PART, WE WOULD PREFER THAT THE NATO SUMMIT BE HELD SOMEWHAT LATER THAN THE REGULAR NATO MINISTERIAL SESSION, AND AS CLOSE TO THE CSCE SUMMIT AS POSSIBLE, BUT WE BELIEVE IT UNTENABLE TO ATTEMPT TO SET A PRECISE DATE FOR THE NATO SUMMIT AT THIS TIME.

-- WE WOULD WELCOME THE REACTION OF THE PERMREPS TO THESE VIEWS.

INGERSOLL UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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